

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's finding that claims 1 and 3-12 are in condition for allowance. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent form and amended to overcome the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. Claims 3-5 have been amended to be multiply dependent on either of claims 1 or 2.

Applicants note that the Office Action mailed January 8, 2004, does not acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97, and the reference(s) cited, filed on December 11, 2003, or the Claim for Priority and Submission of Document filed on December 11, 2003, which included the Japanese priority document. Applicants respectfully request acknowledgement of these documents on the next Office Action.

All claims are now in condition for allowance and a notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

In the event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to

Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing 360842010400.

Respectfully submitted,



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